

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 17 through page 2, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In recent years, in the field of ~~[[a]]~~ computers and communications technology, cipher techniques for encryption and decryption have developed. ~~there is widely known a cipher technique for encryption transmission data to be transmitted and decryption received data in order to obtain the content.~~ In this one type of cipher technique, an algorithm using the same private key (which will be referred to as a common key) is referred to as a common key encryption system. In the common key encryption system, plain text data to be inputted is generally divided into blocks having a fixed length, and each block is subjected to agitation processing based on a key generated from the common key and converted into a cipher text.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 22, line 26 through page 23, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Here, as indicated by the dashed line L1 and the broken line DL in FIG. 9, the program in the storage medium ~~[[S]]~~ SM may or may not include the functions of the message transmission portion 11A and the message reception portion 21B. When the functions of the message transmission portion 11A and the message reception portion 21B are not included in the program in the storage medium SM, they are installed into the personal computer by other means.